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Miss Aileen Patts to Mr. Meredith (3 October 1962)

Miss Aileen Patts

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Answered
12/11/62
October 3, 1962

Dear Mr. Merrideth,

My name is Eileen, and I am a fifteen year old White American girl. Just a few moments ago a newscast on the radio told of how you had artificially been burned and hanged, with a sign around your neck saying "Go home to Africa where you belong." And I think for the first time I really could imagine what actually is going on there. And my heart burns with utter shame that these people call themselves Americans. America, land of the free, home of the brave! Really! What on earth is wrong with people like that, Mr. Merrideth? Are they so blind that they can't see the only difference between white and black is color? The hearts are the same, the laughter is the same, the tears, the feelings, the joy, everything else is the same. Your desire to be loved, your need for companionship, your personal feelings, they're no different from theirs or mine. We all were created by one Maker, and when we die, if we have led good lives, we will all return to him. He's not going to say "All Negroes, Indians, and Chinese go to Hell. All Whites come to

heaven."

Thank God there are people who realize this.
I only wish there was something I could do.
I feel terribly helpless. I know a letter isn't
any help, but maybe by writing to you,
you will know that not everyone feels as
the people do down there. God bless you,
and may your life be as successful as it
deserves to be.

Very Sincerely,

Miss Clara Potts

441 W. Fairbairn Avenue

Audubon 6 N.J.